



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

No. 134

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 29, 2003, at 12 noon.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, the kingdom, power, glory, and honor belong to You. You have given us the gift of this new day and the opportunity for a fresh start. Thank You for the continuous flow of Your blessings; great is Your faithfulness.

Help us to find contentment in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from Your love. Remind us that You have not only made us for time, but also for eternity. Guide our Senators today, deliver them from weariness and impatience and strengthen them with Your peace. Make each of them resolute to do Your will. We lift to You our world leaders. They face tasks that cannot be accomplished by human efforts alone. Whisper Your wisdom and guide their steps.

We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the DC appropriations bill. The managers are here and ready to work. Therefore, we do hope Members will come forward with their amendments during today's session. If a rollcall vote is ordered on an amendment, we will stack that vote for Monday's session. As I announced last night, there will be no rollcall votes today.

Yesterday we made progress on the bill, and I thank the managers for their efforts in moving the bill forward. I do hope we can finish this bill on Monday. I understand there may be further amendments from the other side of the aisle, but it is our desire to complete this bill early next week. I do expect the Senate to begin consideration of the urgent supplemental request at the earliest possible time next week. Given that schedule, it is imperative that we expedite the DC appropriations bill.

With regard to next week's schedule, I want to forewarn all Members, it will be a very busy week. I anticipate that we will have late sessions Tuesday night, Wednesday, Thursday, and possibly Friday. We will have votes throughout that session. Our discussion on the floor yesterday reflected in large part the interest in having time to discuss and debate and amend, if

necessary, or offer amendments on the supplemental. Thus, it will require the attention and focus of our colleagues throughout the week.

I wanted Senators to begin to plan their schedules with this in mind. I do thank all colleagues. I will outline Monday's schedule a bit later today.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Before the majority leader leaves the floor, I indicated to the Senator last week that we should have done something else rather than bringing up the DC bill. I don't see the DC bill moving. I don't see us being able to complete it on Monday. I think we have other appropriations bills we could move through fairly quickly. With the voucher issue involving the DC bill, it makes it very difficult to slog through the bill. I know how we have to put a positive note on everything—especially you—but I think we will have a lot of trouble in completing the DC appropriations bill Monday or any time in the near future.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, listening very carefully, I am disappointed. I think we have an opportunity in this body to address a tragedy, and that is that there are impoverished children trapped in today's schools that are not serving them well. We have an opportunity to reach out and help those children. We have today to work on it. We have Monday to work on it. But if the other side of the aisle feels we cannot

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S12027